

## Introduction

The Crater Planning District derives its name from a large crater left by an explosion during the siege of Petersburg in the Civil War. The planning district is composed of the counties of Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Greenville, Prince George, Sussex and Surry; the cities of Colonial Heights, Emporia, Hopewell and Petersburg; and the towns of Claremont, Dendron, Jarratt, McKenney, Stony Creek, Surry, Wakefield and Waverly. Because Chesterfield County is also a member of the Richmond Regional Planning District (Region 15), for the purposes of the *Virginia Outdoors Plan* information on Chesterfield is included only in Region 15.

Region 19 encompasses an area of approximately 1,889 square miles. The district straddles the fall line, with the western sections of Dinwiddie and Greenville counties in the Piedmont Plateau and the remaining areas in the Coastal Plain. Elevations range from 400 feet above sea level in the west to less than 100 feet in the east. Some low-lying areas contain large fresh-water swamps.

The area's rivers have been important to its development. Petersburg, a river port since the 1700s, was settled at the point where the Appomattox River crossed the fall line. Hopewell is just downstream at the confluence of the James and Appomattox rivers. The Nottoway and Blackwater rivers have headwaters within the district, while the Meherrin River traverses Greenville County in the southern portion of the region.

Interstate 95 is the principal highway in the Crater Planning District, connecting Richmond and points south to North Carolina. Interstate 85 originates in Petersburg and angles to the southwest through Dinwiddie County, eventually entering central North Carolina. Newly constructed Interstate 295 provides a circumferential route around the Richmond area, intersecting with I-95 in Prince George County, south of Petersburg. Arterial routes 58 and 460 provide east-west links through the region. Route 58 passes through Greenville County and Emporia, paralleling the North Carolina state line. Route 460 crosses Dinwiddie County, passing through the Petersburg area and providing a principal business route for eastern communities in the region.

Most of the recreational resources of the region are associated with developed areas near the major rivers and Lake Chesdin. Most of the shoreline is privately owned; however, there are limited opportunities for the general public to access the waters for recreational pursuits. The numerous Civil War battlefields, operated by the National Park Service (NPS), provide for dispersed picnicking and trail use in addition to their interpretive benefits. The Civil War Preservation Trust has acquired four sites in Dinwiddie County. These are the Reams Station, Peeble Farm, Hatchers Run and White Oak Road properties, and they are available for public educational purposes. Fort Lee has numerous athletic facilities and areas that were designed for military personnel but afford area citizens some limited use.

Residents of the counties in the southern Crater Region have thousands of acres of corporate timberlands available for hunting and other dispersed recreational activities. The smaller Piedmont streams and reservoirs in Greenville County meet some of the resident demand for water-based or water-enhanced recreation. However, Buggs Island Lake, Lake Gaston and the tidal estuaries of southeastern Virginia attract many more users.

Special events in the region include the BikeWalk Virginia event in Emporia, the batteau festival in Petersburg and biannual river cleanups along the Appomattox River sponsored by the Friends of the Lower Appomattox River.

In 2000, the region had a population of 167,129. By 2005, the population had increased to 170,400, an approximate 2 percent increase. For this same five-year period, Sussex County is thought to have had a slight decline in population. Regional growth is anticipated to be moderate with the influx of military and civilian related jobs at Fort Lee contributing to the population change in the region.

The Base Realignment and Closure station impacts on Fort Lee reallocates and increases the personnel housed on post as well as off post. The daily average of students training at Fort Lee will increase by 184 percent from 3,431 to 9,739. An additional 1,716 permanent military personnel are expected at Fort Lee by 2011. Family members are anticipated to increase from 4,954 to 8,336. This military population, in addition to the contractor support and civilian permanent employees, will bring the total increase in employment

at Fort Lee to 29,802 or approximately 15,000 additional persons by 2011. This increase will impact recreational resources and the demand for a diversity of recreational resources in the region.

Recommendations applicable to all regions are found in chapters III through IX. To meet needs established in the 2007 *Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP)*, it is important to integrate these recommendations with those that follow for Region 19 into regional and local planning and development strategies.

## Outdoor recreation

For a general discussion of outdoor recreation trends, issues and planning considerations in Virginia, see Chapter II: Outdoor Recreation Issues, Trends and Survey Findings, and Chapter VII: Outdoor Recreation Planning and Related Issues.

As localities in Region 19 plan for future outdoor recreational needs, small neighborhood parks, larger regional facilities, and trails linking communities and water access points are needed. Trails, blueways and greenways linking existing recreational, historic, cultural and natural resources could increase the number of miles of trails suitable for walking, bicycling and boating. Linkages between historical, scenic and cultural resources are supported by survey results that indicate that visiting historic sites is second in popularity to walking for pleasure. The 2006 *Virginia Outdoors Survey (VOS)* indicates a need for additional active recreation facilities, especially basketball courts, multi-purpose fields for soccer and football, as well as baseball and softball fields (see Table X-19). Region 19 requires a large land base for recreational activities like hunting, horseback riding and off-road vehicle use. Water related access for fishing, swimming, boating, canoeing and kayaking are also needed.

A significant void in parks and recreation departments exists in the Crater region. Greensville and Sussex counties as well as the City of Emporia do not employ a full-time parks and recreation director. These localities have turned recreation programming over to private service providers. While private organizations may provide recreation programming in the short term, they are not charged with planning for the long term recreation, park and open space needs of a community. With populations anticipated to increase in each of these localities, this is a troubling trend. According to the Commonwealth of Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts, *Comparative Report on Local Government*

*Revenues and Expenditures* (year ended June 30, 2005), per capita spending on parks and recreation for each locality in this region was: Prince George, \$16.77; Petersburg, \$57.09; Colonial Heights, \$77.64; and Hopewell, \$75.97. This compares to a statewide per capita spending on parks and recreation of \$55.31, including \$85.51 from towns, \$43.75 from counties, and \$76.45 from cities in Virginia.

## Land conservation

The Albemarle-Pamlico is the second largest estuarine system in the country. Forestland conservation in Region 19 will demonstrate Virginia's commitment to a 2001 Memorandum of Agreement with North Carolina to work together to restore and maintain the biological integrity of the Albemarle-Pamlico sounds' estuarine system. Land conservation will also support goals of the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuarine Program (APNEP), established in 1987 by the EPA to conserve the estuary's natural resources. A detailed discussion on statewide awareness of the need for conservation of farmland, parks, natural areas, and historical and cultural resources is found in Chapter III: Land Conservation. Conservation lands in the region are shown on Map 38.

Land conservation recommendations include:

- Local and regional programs are needed to promote conservation through region-wide partnerships to link existing outdoor recreation resources and identify and conserve key landscape connections for wildlife and water quality.
- State and federal agencies, localities and private conservation organizations should complete comprehensive river corridor protection and management plans for the Nottoway, Meherrin and Blackwater rivers.

## Land Trusts Operating in Region 19

- APVA Preservation Virginia
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Civil War Preservation Trust
- The Conservation Fund
- Department of Historic Resources
- Izaak Walton League
- James River Association
- James River Soil and Water Conservation District
- The Nature Conservancy
- Virginia Outdoors Foundation
- The 500-Year Forest Foundation

## Green infrastructure

Information about green infrastructure is found in Chapter IV: Green Infrastructure. Regional recommendations for green infrastructure include:

- Local and regional agencies should become informed and educate constituents about green infrastructure planning, including guidance on local zoning initiatives for changing community design and transportation systems.
- Local, regional and state governments and partnering organizations should support regional efforts to initiate green infrastructure planning.

## Programs

The following recommendations integrate statewide program initiatives into responsive regional strategies for outdoor recreation and conservation. The statewide program areas addressed in this section include: trails and greenways, blueways and water access, historic and landscape resources, scenic resources, Scenic Highways and Virginia Byways, scenic rivers, watersheds, environmental and land stewardship education, and the private sector. Recommendations are bulleted or numbered and are not sequenced by state or local priorities. Numbered recommendations are site specific to the regional map at the end of this section (see Map 39).

## Trails and greenways

For more detailed information, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Recreation Programs and Initiatives, Greenways and Trails. Trail and greenway recommendations include:

### Statewide trunkline trails

- 1 The **East Coast Greenway**, proposed to span almost 3,000 miles from Maine to Florida, aims to connect all the major cities of the East Coast along a continuous, off-road path. This trail will make use of waterfront esplanades, canal paths, railroad corridors and park paths for cyclists, hikers, skaters, equestrians and people with disabilities as it connects urban, suburban and rural America. The East Coast Greenway Trail corridor could go through Prince George, Sussex, Greensville and the cities of Petersburg and Colonial Heights. Planning for the Southeast High Speed Railway along the route of CSX's Seaboard Rail Corridor (the "S" line) should include incorporation of the East Coast Greenway as a bike-walk facility in a multi-modal transportation corridor.

- 2 The **Trans-Virginia Southern Trail** will stretch from the Cumberland Plateau to the Chesapeake Bay. Comprised of many trails now existing or underway, this network will connect the mountains to the sea and stimulate ecotourism across Southern Virginia. This multi-purpose, non-motorized, cross-country trail corridor crosses through Sussex and Greensville counties using the abandoned Norfolk Southern Virginian railroad corridor and the Lake Gaston-Virginia Beach Water Pipeline corridor. Local, regional and state agencies and organizations should work to connect trails and develop new trails as part of the Trans-Virginia Southern Trail.

### Regional trails

Trail and greenway recommendations include:

- 3 Dinwiddie County should implement the **"The Battlefield Connection...A Greenway to the Past, A Link of the 'Trekking Dinwiddie,'** a trail system focusing on the natural and cultural resources in the northeastern portion of Dinwiddie County. The trail is proposed to link the county's recreational resources, Civil War battlefields and other historic sites.

### Lower Appomattox River Trail, Greenway and Blueway

The Lower Appomattox River Trail, Greenway and Blueway traverses over 400 acres in six jurisdictions. Research is needed to identify cooperative regional management and operations alternatives for this recreation resource. When completed, the trail and blueway system will consist of bicycle and multi-purpose trails, linking natural, cultural, heritage and other linear open spaces in the region between Lake Chesdin in Dinwiddie and the City Point area in Hopewell. The 22-mile trail network will link all recreational, cultural and natural features, and historic sites on both sides of the Appomattox River. Critical components of the Lower Appomattox River Trail, Greenway and Blueway are the Virginia Dominion Power Canal, the Petersburg waterfronts, the Hopewell waterfront and re-establishment of the federal navigation channel in the Appomattox River to the historic harbor in downtown Petersburg. Also included in the Lower Appomattox River Trail and Greenway are the pedestrian and wayside exhibits associated with the NPS Grant's Headquarters at City Point in Hopewell. This site, at the confluence of the James and Appomattox rivers, serves as a gateway to the trail.

4 Local, regional and state agencies and organizations should implement recommendations for **the Lower Appomattox River Trail, Greenway and Blueway**. There is an opportunity to connect the 300-acre **Lee Park** to the Lower Appomattox River Trail and Greenway along stream corridors and Petersburg's city streets. The **City of Colonial Heights** has a multi-use greenway located along the Appomattox River from just south of Temple Avenue to just west of the Boulevard, Route 1/Route 301, that should be connected to the Lower Appomattox River Trail and Greenway. Opportunities to link Chesterfield County to the Lower Appomattox River Trail and Greenway should also be pursued.

5 The City of Petersburg and NPS should implement the **Appomattox River Heritage Trail** in Petersburg connecting Fort Lee and the Petersburg battlefields. This trail includes a two-mile pedestrian trail from the historic train station along the Appomattox River in Petersburg. The original Petersburg harbor should be reopened to accommodate recreational use including boating and public access. The south channel of the river was closed years ago to reduce flooding, but could be reopened with control structures to provide the critical link in the greenway and water trail.

6 The City of Hopewell should connect the **Cabin Creek Trail** with several parks and recreational facilities including Hopewell High School, Mathis Park, Crystal Lake Park, Atwater Park and the new Atwater Soccer Complex. Approximately 5,298 feet of the Cabin Creek Trail has been completed, and there are also possibilities to connect this trail with the Lower Appomattox River Trail and Greenway.

7 Consider the abandoned **Seaboard Coast Railroad** corridor between Petersburg and North Carolina for a potential rail-trail conversion. The Department of Rail and Public Transportation is considering a rapid rail transit line in this corridor. If the route does not use the Seaboard Coast Railroad, a rail-trail conversion should be pursued. This route should be evaluated to function as a segment of the East Coast Greenway.

8 The Department of Forestry (DOF) should pursue opportunities for trails in the proposed **state forest in Sussex County**.

## Water access

Blueways and water access are critical in a water rich state such as Virginia. Water access should be a high priority for public acquisition. A discussion of the

water access in the Commonwealth can be found in Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Water Access and Blueways. Water access recommendations include:

Water access recommendations include:

- Regional and local agencies should establish cooperative agreements among localities, other agencies and private landowners to meet the increasing need for public access to recreational waters.
- Regional and local agencies should identify strategies to make additional waterfront resources available for public use.
- Regional and local agencies should provide adequate support facilities and services, such as restrooms, concessions, parking and maintenance for existing and proposed public water and beach access areas.
- Regional and local agencies should acquire or maintain access to existing public beaches and water access sites that may be jeopardized by changes in land use or development activities.
- The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and local government should expand public access to water by developing parking and launch facilities at bridge crossings.
- Local, regional and state agencies and organizations should increase water access for the public on the James, Appomattox, Blackwater, Meherrin and Nottoway rivers.
- Local, regional and state agencies and organizations should provide canoe and kayak launch sites on the Appomattox River, especially in Petersburg.
- Local, regional and state agencies and organizations should provide canoe and kayak launch sites on the Nottoway River and along the proposed Blackwater River Blueway.
- Local, regional and state agencies and organizations should implement plans for the Lower Appomattox River Trail, Greenway and Blueway.
- Local, regional and state agencies and organizations should participate with the James River Advisory Council and other partners in pursuing a landscape and river corridor management plan for the James River through the region that extends from the City of Richmond to Prince George County.
- Local, regional and state agencies and organizations should incorporate the Captain John Smith Adventures on the James River Trail into local com-

prehensive plans as a way to further heritage and ecotourism in the region. In Region 19, the Oyster Loop includes sites at Smith's Fort Plantation, Chippokes Plantation State Park, Hog Island Wildlife Management Area and Fort Huger. In addition, the U.S. Congress created the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail with 2,300 miles of water trail throughout the Bay area. This is the nation's first national historic water trail commemorating the explorations of Captain John Smith. This trail will likely coincide with the state designation for the Captain John Smith on the James Trail. It should also be included in local comprehensive plans as a way to further heritage and ecotourism in the region.

- 9 Local, regional and state agencies and organizations should evaluate the **Petersburg harbor** for potential to include a regional water park.
- 10 Local, regional and state agencies and organizations should provide additional **public access to the Appomattox River in Ettrick** upstream of the Harwell Dam.
- 11 The City of Hopewell should provide public access for boating at the **Hopewell Marina** on the Appomattox River.
- 12 The City of Hopewell should secure a legal agreement to ensure permanent public access and trails along the Appomattox River at the former site of the **Copeland Elementary School**.

### Historic and landscape resources

The Civil War battlefields, historic Petersburg and Hopewell, and the expanses of forest and working farms in the region create interesting and significant cultural opportunities for visitors and residents. Region 19 has just begun to tap into the potential that many of these resources have in attracting tourists. Also, the regional interest in connecting these resources for marketing purposes is just beginning. Over time, the linkages of all these cultural resources with outdoor recreation opportunities will attract more tourists and improve the quality of life for residents.

Consideration should be given to evaluating potential historic and landscape recommendations in this region. For more detailed information, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Historic and Landscape Resources. Local and regional recommendations include:

- Regional and local agencies should identify historic and archaeological resources that can be used for tourism, recreation and education. These resources

should be included in local land use planning and decision-making processes to promote preservation and protection.

- Regional and local agencies should partner with local historic attractions, historical societies, museums and other tourism organizations in the region to include the Virginia Association of Museums, Virginia Civil War Trails, APVA Preservation Virginia, the Virginia Main Street Program and others to enhance local heritage tourism, educational and recreational offerings.
- Regional and local agencies should encourage local governments and private organizations that own historic properties in the region to manage properties effectively for long-term protection and to maximize public benefit consistent with the nature of the historic property.
- Regional and local agencies should recognize the multiple historic and cultural resources within the rural landscape through rural historic districts.
- Regional and local agencies should support the creation of other heritage area programs to promote tourism and preservation in distinctive regions.
- Local government and local and regional organizations should work with the state to meet the critical need for county-wide surveys of historic and architectural resources in Dinwiddie, Greensville, Prince George, Sussex and Surry counties.
- Local, regional and state agencies and organizations should establish connections between the battlefields in the region for education and outdoor recreation opportunities. The Civil War Preservation Trust has acquired portions of four battlefields in Region 19: Reams Station, Peeble Farm, Hatchers Run and White Oak located in Dinwiddie County.
- Local and regional agencies and organizations should pursue opportunities for interpretation of African American history especially related to Pocahontas Island and the Fort Powhatan site.
- Local, regional and state agencies and organizations should develop ecotourism opportunities through interpretation of Native American sites in the region.
- Local, regional and state agencies and organizations should interpret the prehistoric site at Aberdeen as well as pre-revolution and Revolutionary War history.
- The NPS and Virginia Institute of Marine Science should evaluate the issues related to underwater archaeological significance at the City Point Pier in Hopewell.

## Scenic resources

Consideration should be given to potential scenic recommendations in this region. For more detailed information, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Scenic Resources. Local and regional recommendations include:

- Regional and local agencies should develop corridor management plans for scenic byways, blueways, greenways and scenic rivers to assure preservation of the scenic quality of the corridor.
- Regional and local agencies should protect the scenic value of lands adjacent to publicly owned properties, as well as the scenic value of working agricultural and forestal areas key to maintaining a sense of place and economic vitality of the region. Scenic attributes to be considered include:
  - Consider timber harvesting impacts on key viewsheds.
  - Protect viewsheds along river corridors and scenic byways.
  - Maintain and create views along Virginia byways and scenic highways to enhance the visual experience of traveling.
- Regional and local agencies and organizations should assess scenic assets for this region to determine appropriate protection strategies.
- Scenic corridors in the Crater region are located along the rivers, near the battlefields and include the rural landscapes and historic districts. Localities should ensure that a component of their comprehensive plan provides for the protection and enhancement of scenic resources, visual character and viewsheds.

## Scenic highways and Virginia byways

There has been a tremendous interest in thematic trails including three Civil War driving tours programs: Lee vs. Grant, Lee's Retreat and the Wilson-Kautz Raid. In addition other thematic driving tours in the Crater region include the James River Plantations Driving Tour, Captain John Smith's Adventures on the James and the Wildlife and Birding Trail Tour. Opportunities to traverse Virginia's scenic and cultural landscapes are enhanced through nationally recognized designation. For more detailed information, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Scenic Highways and Virginia Byways.

Scenic roads recommendations for the region include:

- Regional and local agencies should recognize and

nominate scenic roads for designation as Virginia byways.

- Regional and local agencies should partner with other state, local and professional organizations to develop corridor management plans to protect the scenic assets of byway corridors.
- Regional and local agencies should incorporate Virginia byways and scenic highways into local comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances to ensure viewsheds are conserved and the sense of place retained along these corridors.
- Regional and local agencies should support designation of nationally qualified historic corridors to increase civic engagement and foster heritage tourism.

The following road segments are potential Virginia Byways and should be evaluated to determine if they qualify for designation:.

**13 Routes 10 and 156** in Prince George and Surry counties from Hopewell to the Surry County-Isle of Wight County line.

**14 Route 35** in Sussex County from the Southampton County line to Route 301.

**15 Route 40** in Sussex and Surry counties from Route 301 to Route 10.

**16 Route 460** to connect existing Virginia byways 627 and 708 in Dinwiddie County.

**17 Rives Road** between Route 301 and Route 460.

## Scenic rivers

In Region 19 there are currently three designated scenic river sections. Forty miles of the Nottoway River in Sussex and Southampton counties, between Route 40 at Stony Creek and Route 633 at Carey's Bridge, is designated as a Virginia Scenic River. A segment of the Appomattox River, from below the Lake Chesdin dam to the Route 36 bridge in the City of Petersburg, has also been recognized as a state scenic river. The lower James River is designated a state historic river for 1.2 miles from Trees Point in Charles City County to Lawnes Creek at the Isle of Wight and Surry County lines (Region 23). For detailed information about the Virginia's Scenic Rivers Program and its purpose, benefits and designation process, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Recreation Programs and Initiative, Scenic Rivers.

The following river segments qualify for designation as Virginia Scenic Rivers:

- 18 The **Nottoway River** from Route 630 in Prince Edward and Lunenburg counties to Route 609 in Dinwiddie and Brunswick counties.
  - 19 The **James River** between Hopewell and the Surry County-Prince George County line. The reach in Surry County was designated a Historic River by the 1988 General Assembly.
- The following river segments are potential Virginia Scenic Rivers and should be evaluated to determine suitability for designation:
- 20 The **Meherrin River** in Greensville and Southampton counties to the Virginia-North Carolina state line.
  - 21 The **Blackwater River** from the headwaters to Zuni.
  - 22 The **Nottoway River** at the Brunswick-Dinwiddie line to Route 609.
  - 23 The **Nottoway River** from Route 630 in Sussex and Greensville counties to Route 40 in Sussex County. And, the Nottoway River from Route 653 in Southampton County to the Virginia-North Carolina state line.
  - 24 The **Appomattox River** from Campbell's Bridge to the confluence with the James River in Hopewell.

### Watershed resources

The region's watersheds include the Chowan basin flowing south into North Carolina and the James River flowing east into the Chesapeake Bay. For information about Virginia's watershed programs, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Virginia's Watershed Programs. Watershed recommendations for this region include:

- Local and regional agencies should protect watersheds by integrating watershed management planning into local land use ordinances and comprehensive plans through Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR's) Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act land use management initiative.
- Local and regional agencies should develop and implement long-term watershed-wide water supply protection plans in the Nottoway and Blackwater watersheds. The Nottoway and Blackwater rivers are part of the drinking water supply for more than 700,000 residents in the south Hampton Roads metropolitan region. Anticipated changes in land use

due to economic growth in the Crater District may adversely impact water quality and quantity on both rivers if watershed protection is not addressed.

### Watershed groups in Region 19

- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Chowan River Basin Roundtable
- Friends of Chesterfield's Riverfront
- Friends of the Lower Appomattox River
- Friends of the Rivers of Virginia
- James River Advisory Council
- James River Association
- Middle James Roundtable

### Environmental and land stewardship education

For detailed information on Environmental and Land Stewardship education, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Environmental and Land Stewardship Education. Environmental and land stewardship recommendations for this region include:

- Local and regional agencies and organizations should develop and program environmental education opportunities at the Prince George Appomattox River Park.
- Local and regional agencies and organizations should develop and program environmental education opportunities at Lee Park in Petersburg
- DCR should continue to offer outdoor environmental education, as well as natural and cultural interpretive programs, at Chippokes State Park.
- NPS should continue to offer interpretive programs and outdoor environmental education at City Point and at the Petersburg National Battlefield.

### Federal programs

For information on federal programs affecting Virginia's outdoor recreation and conservation opportunities, see Chapter IX-A: Resource Agencies. Local and regional recommendations are listed by agency.

### National parks

- Local and regional government, user groups and nonprofits should work with the National Park Service (NPS) to revise policy in order to allow mountain bikes to use appropriate national park trails.

- NPS will support efforts underway at parks such as Petersburg National Battlefield, Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, and Richmond National Battlefield Park, which are currently engaged in efforts to link battlefields, historic sites, parks and communities.
- NPS will work with state, regional and local agencies to elevate battlefield protection with land conservation, scenic viewshed and heritage preservation initiatives by implementing partnerships to identify, prioritize and develop strategies to protect critical resources.
- NPS, regional and local agencies will continue collaborative efforts through the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Water Trails Program to connect people to heritage, outdoor recreation, and educational opportunities and resources.

### **Chesapeake Bay Gateways**

The NPS coordinates the Chesapeake Bay Gateway Network (<http://www.baygateways.net>) to promote a historic and environmental focus on water access and stewardship. Designated Chesapeake Bay Gateways in the Crater Planning District include the Lower James River Water Trail and Chippokes State Park.

**25** NPS should implement the May 2005 general management plan for **Petersburg National Battlefield**, a nationally recognized regional historical attraction. NPS and the localities throughout the region should work together to provide additional trail opportunities within Petersburg National Battlefield (such as the proposed trail in the Five Forks Battlefield) and link them to the Lower Appomattox River Trail and Greenway and to privately owned Civil War sites.

**26** NPS should implement the park's general management plan for **Grant's Headquarters at City Point**. This plan also suggests providing water-to-land access on the river, particularly since the area serves as the gateway and the terminus for the Lower Appomattox River Trail and Greenway.

### **The Petersburg National Battlefield and Grant's Headquarters at City Point**

The battlefield includes Grant's Headquarters at City Point in Hopewell and the eastern and western front segments of the battlefield, along with Poplar Grove National Cemetery and Five Forks Battlefield in Dinwiddie County. The Home Front unit in Old Town Petersburg is a new partnership with the city for which a joint visitor contact station is presently being developed. In addition to activation of the Home Front unit, a new visitor contact station is slated for construction at Five Forks in 2008. Currently, legislation for a park boundary expansion to 7,238 acres, which would include 12 nationally significant battlefields has been written for introduction to Congress.

Grant's Headquarters at City Point is a unit of Petersburg National Battlefield in the City of Hopewell. The site was the Federal Army's debarkation point for men and materials during the siege of Petersburg, and it also served as Grant's logistical base of operations. The Eppes' dwelling, known as "Appomattox," was an early plantation dating back to 1763. Ulysses S. Grant, general-in-chief of all Union armies, commanded the various forces from a log cabin located on the front lawn. In accord with the park's general management plan, Appomattox Manor will become a house museum, and the nearby park-owned "Bonaccord" (circa 1845) will become the visitor contact station.

### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)**

**27** Encourage partnership and negotiation between local and regional governments and organizations and the USFWS to allow additional recreational access at the **James River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)**, incorporating strategies to involve volunteers in assisting USFWS staff in managing and monitoring the refuge. Located in Prince George County, the refuge is eight miles southeast of the City of Hopewell and thirty miles southeast of the City of Richmond. The James River NWR encompasses 4,200 acres of forest and wetland habitats along the James River, bordered by Powells Creek to the west and the historic Flowerdew Hundred Plantation to the east. Originally, the refuge was created in 1991 to protect nesting and roosting habitat for the threatened American bald eagle. A secondary objective is to provide an opportunity to view wildlife in its natural environment, so that the public



may better appreciate the refuge's role in conservation of wildlife resources. The James River NWR has been selected for "preservation status" due to decreased funding for manpower and projects.

### State facilities and programs

For a discussion of state facilities and programs throughout the entire Commonwealth, see Chapter IX-B: Resource Agencies. Local and regional recommendations are listed by agency or program.

### State parks

**28 Chippokes Plantation State Park** (1,946 acres) is one of the oldest working farms in the United States. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1969, Chippokes is a living historical exhibit located in a rural agricultural area along the James River in Surry County. In addition, the park has a wide variety of recreational offerings, including a swimming complex, visitor center, picnic facilities, conference center with kitchen, 43-site campground, three colonial style rental cabins, and hiking, biking and equestrian trails. The formal gardens surrounding the Chippokes Mansion are accented by azaleas, crepe myrtle, box-wood and seasonal flowers. Mansion tours are offered routinely and in association with special events.

Unique within the state park system, Chippokes Plantation State Park is managed cooperatively with the Chippokes Plantation Farm Foundation, which was created by the Virginia General Assembly in 1977 to establish, administer and maintain the model farm. The foundation operates the Farm and Forestry Museum and oversees the farm operation on approximately 470 acres of crop and pasture on the park. Cooperative programs and special events are offered at the Farm and Forestry Museum and on the grounds of the mansion.

Through funding from the 2002 General Obligation Bond (GOB), the pool concession has been renovated, the campground expanded, and historic structures near the mansion have been renovated. In 2004, the park acquired Walnut Valley Farm as a gift from Mrs. Lucy Reasor in memory of her husband, Woodrow. The farm adjoins the original historic section of the park. The maintenance area has been relocated to the new acquisition as part of the renovation of the historic structures. This creates new educational opportunities for interpreting the cultural features of this historic site.

Chippokes State Park is located on the Captain John Smith Adventures on the James Trail and is also a site

in the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network. The park participates in tourism initiatives of both Surry County and the South Side of the James regional tourism group. Other cooperative regional opportunities include the re-establishment of the Old Chipoax Road, 3.5 mile road trace, as a multiple-use trail. The old road runs from the James River through the park and continues to historic Bacon's Castle.

### State fish and wildlife management areas (WMA)

In Region 19, there is limited availability of hunting sites open to the general public. Most hunting is managed through hunt clubs, and opportunities for private citizens in Region 19 to enjoy the outdoors as sportsmen are lacking. The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) is encouraged to continue seeking opportunities to establish wildlife management areas in the district and to continue partnering with other agencies and private organizations that advance public hunting programs.

**29** DGIF should repair the breached dam at the **Game Refuge Lake in Sussex County**, located north of Route 35, to restore the fishery.

**30** DGIF should improve public access amenities at **Hog Island WMA** to include picnicking and beach area, as well as other recreational amenities that support the mission of this WMA.

### Hog Island Wildlife Management Area (WMA)

Hog Island WMA includes 3,908 acres on three tracts of land in Surry County. Close to sea level in elevation, the Hog Island Tract is a mixture of flat, open land and pine forest interspersed with tidal marshes and controlled ponds. Intensive wildlife management on this tract includes a vast dike system to create impoundments that are seasonally drained and flooded to produce native plant foods for wintering waterfowl. Surrounding fields provide an additional food source in the form of annual agricultural crops. Hunting, fishing and hiking are allowed on the property, and a boat ramp is on Lawnes Creek. Several miles of pedestrian trails are available, and the area has potential for picnic area development and public access to the pristine, natural beach on the James River.

## State forests

- Local and regional agencies should encourage the use of Department of Forestry (DOF) Best Management Practices in floodplain forest areas, particularly those adjacent to state-designated scenic waterways.
- Local and regional agencies should use DOF properties as field classrooms to help with educational programs.
- Local and regional agencies should coordinate with DOF and seek the assistance of local trail and river user organizations to develop forest trails and publish maps for each state forest, as well as establish greenways and blueways for public use.
- Local and regional agencies should investigate opportunities to acquire fee simple ownership or easements to conserve working farms and forests in the region.
- Local and regional agencies should work with DOF to create defensible space around buildings to reduce the risk of wild fires through the DOF Fire Wise Program.
- Localities should work with DOF on education and monitoring of tree diseases and other pests that could weaken the forested environments.
- Local, state and regional agencies and organizations should target agricultural lands for reforestation to protect the water quality of the area and limit the effects of erosion on these lands.
- DOF should be encouraged to protect forestlands along the Meherrin, Nottoway and Blackwater rivers to preserve valuable viewsheds, to benefit flood protection efforts, and to maintain water quality for humans and wildlife.
- DOF should establish conservation planning a state forest in Sussex County with public access for outdoor recreation activities, especially trails. Excellent acquisition opportunities for large-scale forestland conservation are emerging as corporate timber companies divest their land holdings. The Nature Conservancy has secured large forest tracts from International Paper in the vicinity of Piney Grove Natural Preserve. The DOF intends to acquire this property as a state forest. Once established, 25 percent of timber revenue proceeds will flow back to the localities.

## State natural area preserves

Natural area preserves located in Region 19 are Chub Sandhill and Dendron Swamp in Sussex County and

Cherry Orchard Bog in Sussex and Prince George counties. These sites could offer some limited opportunities for compatible forms of recreational use such as hiking trails and bird watching.

DCR has, as of November 2006, documented 585 occurrences of 191 rare species and natural communities in the Crater Planning District. Forty-three species are globally rare and seven are federally threatened or endangered. One hundred forty-six conservation sites have been identified in the district, but only 39 (27 percent) have received any level of protection through ownership or management by state, federal and non-government organizations. Only one site is protected well enough to ensure the long-term viability of the rare species and natural communities it supports.

DCR recommends that all unprotected conservation sites, and all unprotected portions of partially protected sites, be targeted for future land conservation efforts. The appropriate method of protection will vary with each site but may include placing the site on Virginia's Registry of Natural Areas, developing a voluntary management agreement with the landowner, securing a conservation easement through a local land trust, acquiring the site through a locality or local land trust, dedicating the site as a natural area preserve with the current owner, or acquiring the site as a state-owned natural area preserve.

Within Region 17, DCR is particularly interested in:

- Helping establish a state forest in Sussex County.
- Supporting efforts to expand protection and ecological management of forestland around Piney Grove.
- Expanding forestland protection along the Blackwater River and Nottoway River.
- Establishing a natural area preserve in Prince George County to restore pine flatwoods and coastal plain depression pond communities.

**31** Continuing efforts to secure **buffer lands around Fort Pickett**.

## Other state lands

For a discussion of other state lands, see Chapter IX-C: Resource Agencies.

The following state-owned lands contain significant undeveloped open space that may have some potential for local recreational use. Each site should be assessed and, where appropriate, a cooperative agreement should be developed to make these

resources available for local use as parks and open space.

**32 Richard Bland College** and surrounding communities should partner to develop recreational opportunities as well as environmental outreach education for area citizens.

The college is in Prince George and Dinwiddie counties and contains almost 700 acres, of which approximately 20 percent are developed.

### Transportation programs

- Local and regional agencies should develop alternatives to the use of private automobiles for daily activities. Transit systems, bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, improved community design, as well as a change in people's attitudes toward transportation alternatives will be needed for the transportation system of the future to meet capacity needs and energy constraints.
- Local and regional agencies should work with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to implement Context Sensitive Solutions that accommodate multiple transportation modes.
- Local and regional agencies should recognize the need for a network of low-speed, low-volume roadways used by equestrians, pedestrians and cyclists, and they should include protections for this network in their comprehensive plan.
- Local and regional agencies should encourage the development of a permanent process for integrating the recommendations of local public health agencies, and they should include "active living" opportunities into all phases of transportation planning, land use planning and project design.
- Local and regional agencies should support a regional bicycle and trails plan to include alternative transportation initiatives and link heritage tourism. Each locality should work to have the plan adopted as part of the local comprehensive plan.
- Local and regional agencies should support the Tri-Cities bikeway improvements.

### Local and regional parks and recreation departments

For a discussion of local and regional parks and recreation departments, see Chapter IX-D: Resource Agencies. Local and regional recommendations include:

- Local agencies and organizations should explore reclamation of abandoned landfills into new and needed parks.
- Local governments and agencies should consider cooperative management for the recreational use of private, corporate and state or federally owned lands in order to increase local access and meet outdoor recreation needs.
- The Appomattox River is the thread that ties many recreation resources together into a multi-jurisdictional linear park. The localities in this region should consider the formation of a regional park authority to facilitate management and expansion of resources needed to meet growing outdoor recreation demand in this region. The DCR may offer technical assistance for initiating a regional park authority. A source of seed funding would be helpful in generating interest among multi-jurisdictional partners.

**33 The Appomattox Riverside Park should expand** to provide a variety of recreational uses and ultimately to connect with the Petersburg waterfront via trails along the old canal towpath. Maintenance on the dam should be conducted to preserve the historic canal. The park, developed by the City of Petersburg in the Ferndale area, is below Lake Chesdin in Dinwiddie County.

**34 The Appomattox River Park** located in Prince George County is under construction and will be completed by December 2008. The park will include walking trails, an educational center, comfort station and a river observation deck that can be used for wildlife observation, water monitoring and fishing. Some trails are wheelchair accessible. Opportunities to expand the trails and extend the property should be pursued in partnership with surrounding property owners.

**35 Lee Park** should connect to the Lower Appomattox River Trail and Greenway. This linkage will connect the park with other natural resources and pedestrian trails. In addition, the Lee Park Master Plan expands and improves the outdoor recreational opportunities this site affords the region. The park is located in the City of Petersburg and boasts an abundance of cultural and natural history, and it includes Willcox Lake, which offers opportunities for waterfront recreation. This 300-acre park provides both active recreation venues and opportunities for nature study. The Willcox Watershed Conservancy is now building partnerships for enhancement of the park and connections to other regional resources.

36 A **regional park** should be developed with public access along the James River in the historic plantation area in **Prince George County**. This regional park should provide both land and water-based recreational facilities.

37 Water access and water-related recreational opportunities should be provided at a **regional park** in **Surry County**. This regional park should take advantage of the beautiful natural setting of forest, water and marsh along the James River near the Town of Claremont.

38 A **regional park** should be established along the **Nottoway River** and its environs in Sussex County. This park should offer an ideal location for various woodland and water-oriented recreational activities.

39 The **Slagle Lake** property should be acquired as a regional park making contributions to the recreational resources of the region due to its historical significance and proximity to the City of Emporia.

### Private sector

Much of the demand for outdoor recreation is met by the private sector. For a discussion of the private sector, see Chapter IX-E: Resource Agencies. The following recommendations pertain to this region:

- Private developments could provide access points for major streams and rivers.
- The private sector can play a primary role in making the numerous historic sites available for local residents and visitors.
- The demand for camping should be supported by private campgrounds.
- Off-road vehicle opportunities could be met in part by private lands.

40 **Pamplin Historical Park and The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier**, a non-profit organization, should continue to market and offer heritage tourism as well as linkages to other regional resources, especially battlefields and pedestrian trails.

### Pamplin Historical Park and The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier

The park currently offers visitors a personal encounter with the life of the common Civil War soldier through its state-of-the-art museums, as well as its Civil War Adventure Camp. The visitor actually listens to the story of a particular soldier while experiencing the museum exhibits. The privately owned 422-acre campus in northern Dinwiddie County encompasses four award-winning museums, three historic homes, living history presentations, guided tours and the Breakthrough Battlefield of April 2, 1865. The remnants of nearly one mile of fortifications constructed by Confederate soldiers remain. The Pamplin Historical Park area saw 16,000 Americans engaged in combat, with approximately 2,600 killed or wounded. In addition to the military history, Tudor Hall Plantation's costumed interpreters present the daily routines associated with farm life in the early to mid-1800s, including a multi-media exhibit on slavery. The extensive trails provide opportunities to experience the area's natural history and beauty. Visitors who choose to enlist as Civil War soldiers sleep in re-created huts and barracks, eat a soldier's supper and breakfast, and learn drills, tactics and camp skills.

**Table X-19. Region 19 (Crater Planning District) Existing and Projected Outdoor Recreation Needs**

Activity	Activity Days	Demand	Units	Supply	2010 Needs	2020 Needs
Baseball	222,835	44	fields	56	-12	-11
Basketball	433,897	103	goals	97	6	9
Bicycling	543,212	39	miles	NI		
Mountain	69,962	5	miles	NI		
Other	473,250	34	miles	NI		
Lake, river and bay use (combined)	486,536	7,874	water acres	24,736	-16,862	-16,660
Power boating	196,767	4,743	water acres	S		
Sailing	30,272	262	water acres	S		
Saltwater fishing	183,649	1,033	water acres	S		
Jet ski, personal watercraft	34,476	540	water acres	S		
Water skiing, towed on water	41,372	1,296	water acres	S		
Camping	128,487	758	sites	875	-117	-98
Tent camping	82,070	484	sites	1	483	495
Developed camping	46,417	274	sites	874	-600	-593
Fitness trail use	339,045	27	mile trails	6	21	22
Fields (combined)	586,601	123	fields	25	98	101
Football	195,085	41	fields	25	16	17
Soccer	391,516	82	fields	-	82	84
Stream use (combined)	329,963	192	stream miles	32	160	165
Freshwater fishing	246,211	173	stream miles	S		
Human-powered boating	61,889	16	stream miles	S		
Rafting	6,391	1	stream miles	S		
Tubing	15,472	2	stream miles	S		
Golfing	370,830	13	courses	108	7	7
Hiking, backpacking	156,405	80	trail miles	74	6	8
Horseback riding	46,249	20	miles	29	-9	-8
In-line skating	128,655	9	miles	NI		
Jogging, running	2,144,257	172	mile trails	NI		
Nature study, programs	47,762	7	sites	-	7	7

**Note:** Demand multipliers used to create this chart are based on the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's 2006 *Virginia Outdoors Survey* as measured at the regional level. Additional analysis is required to adjust these results for local conditions.

**NA:** not applicable, no standard needed

**S:** same as combined

**NS:** not inventoried separately

**NI:** not inventoried

**( - )** indicates surplus

**Table X-19. Region 19 (Crater Planning District) Existing and Projected Outdoor Recreation Needs – continued**

Activity	Activity Days	Demand	Units	Supply	2010 Needs	2020 Needs
Picnicking away from home	217,789	565	tables	335	230	245
Skateboarding	124,115	38	sites	NI		
Snow skiing or snowboarding	63,235	2	ski lifts	-	2	2
Softball	252,266	45	fields	53	-8	-7
Sunbathing, relaxing on beach	620,573	44	beach acres	23	21	23
Swimming	1,681,770	108		NI		
Outdoor Area	798,841	82	beach acres	23	59	61
Outdoor pools	526,394	22	pools	10	12	13
Indoor pools	356,535	4	pools	1	3	3
Tennis	216,612	135	courts	75	60	64
Used a playground	847,612	121	sites	83	38	41
Visiting gardens	113,519	12	sites	NI		
Visiting historic sites	381,425	32	sites	NI		
Visiting natural areas	296,664	50	sites	NI		
Volleyball	110,997	33	courts	5	28	29
Hunting	143,623	23,553	acres	93,373	-69,820	-69,215
Drive for pleasure	1,323,553	NA	NA	NI		
Driving motorcycle off road	22,704	10	miles	-	10	11
Driving 4-wheel-drive off road	61,216	NA	NA	NS		
Walking for pleasure	4,856,952	NA	NA	NI		
Bird watching	46,249	NA		NI		
Other	47,090	NA	NA	NI		

**Note:** Demand multipliers used to create this chart are based on the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's 2006 *Virginia Outdoors Survey* as measured at the regional level. Additional analysis is required to adjust these results for local conditions.

**NA:** not applicable, no standard needed

**S:** same as combined

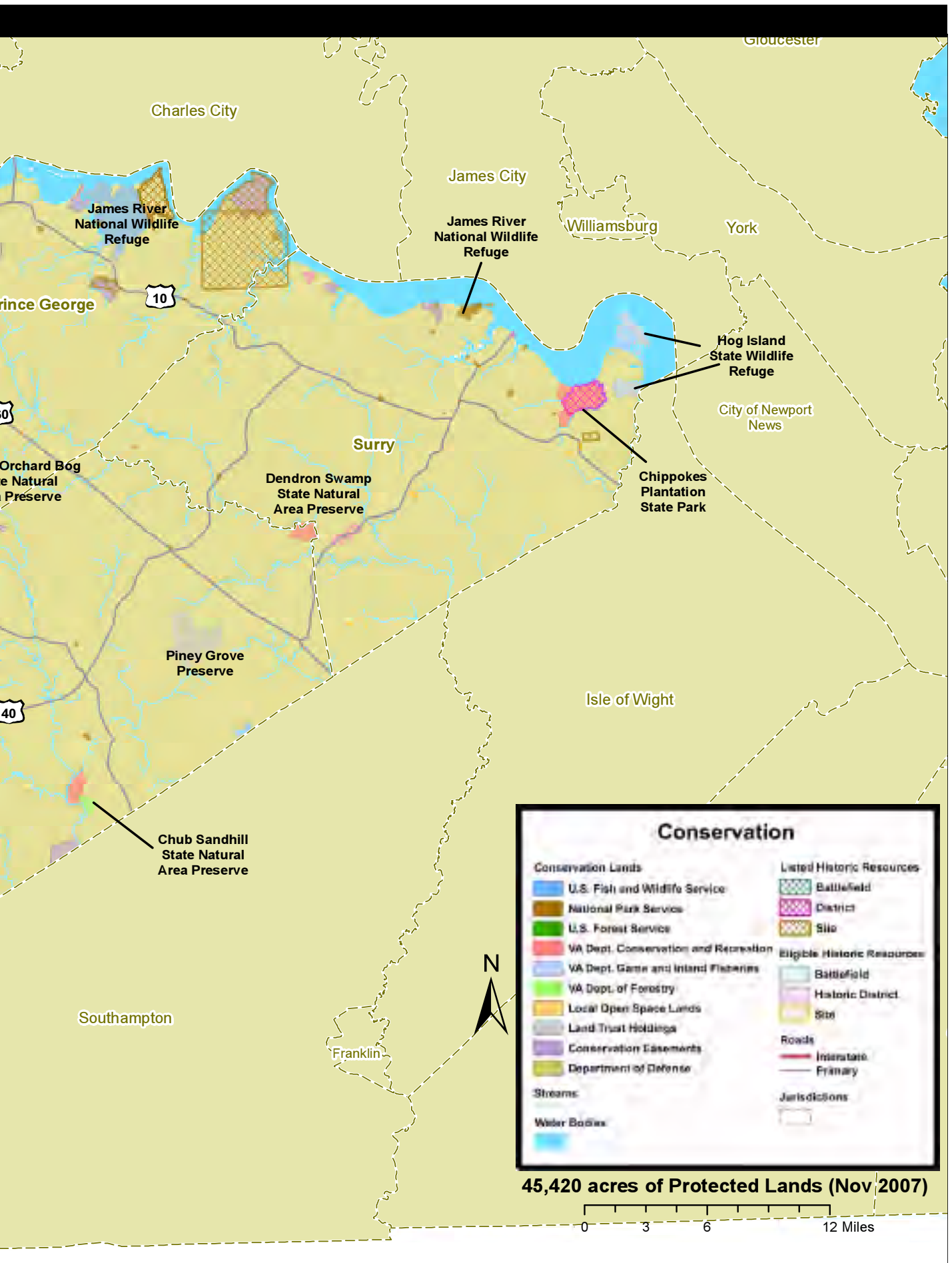
**NS:** not inventoried separately

**NI:** not inventoried

**( - )** indicates surplus

Map X-38. Region 19 (Crater Planning District) Conservation Lands







Map X-39. Region 19 (Crater Planning District) Outdoor Recreation

